

Sunday, March 10, 2002, 3 p.m.
Walter Hall

Presents

Gryphon Trio

Annalee Patipatanakoon, violin
Roman Borys, cello
Jamie Parker, piano

with

Erika Raum, violin
Scott St. John, viola

PROGRAMME

Gary Kulesha
(b. 1954)

Piano Trio No. 2 (2001)

I

II Molto Rubato

III

Alfred Schnittke
(1934-1998)

Trio for violin, cello and piano (1992)

Moderato

Adagio

INTERMISSION

Antonín Dvořák
(1841-1904)

Piano Quintet in A major, Op. 81

Allegro ma non troppo

Dumka

Scherzo

Finale

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Biographies

Formed in 1993, the **Gryphon Trio** was named after the mythical half-lion/half-eagle creature that was reputed to be a guardian of treasures and a symbol of the connection between psychic energy and cosmic force. These characteristics reflect the outlook embodied by the Gryphon Trio - a group that is known both for its integrity in interpreting the classics from the piano trio literature as well as for presenting exciting new compositions in an audience-friendly way.

The Gryphon Trio has toured extensively in Canada and the United States, as well as Belgium, France, Poland, Germany, Finland, Russia, and Australia. In addition to chamber music concerts, the Trio conducts frequent masterclasses, radio and television appearances, and school presentations. They have been heard on such radio networks as Radio France, RTBF (Belgium), Radio Bremen, Hessischer Rundfunk (Frankfurt), ABC (Australia), and the CBC (Canada). In 1997, the Gryphon Trio performed live on the internet from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Broadcast Centre in Toronto.

The Gryphon Trio is very committed to performing and commissioning new works by Canadian and international composers. To date, the Trio has commissioned works by Patrick Carrabré, Andrew MacDonald, Kelly-Marie Murphy, Peter Tiefenbach, Chan Ka Nin, Marc Sabat and Omar Daniel. The Gryphon Trio's experience with new works has been a very positive one and has resulted in numerous audience requests for recordings of these works. In the fall of 2000 the Trio premiered *Constantinople*, a 75 minute multimedia work involving composer Christos Hatzis, visual media designer Jacques Collin, and mezzo-soprano Jean Stilwell.

Since the fall of 1998 the Gryphon Trio has been an ensemble-in-residence at the Music Toronto series in Toronto. As well as giving the Trio an opportunity to present diverse programmes, the residency also provides opportunities to perform with a variety of visiting artists. All residency performances are broadcast throughout Canada on the CBC.

The Gryphon Trio recordings of Haydn Piano Trios and Mendelssohn/Dvořák Trios

released on the Montréal based Analekta label have received unanimous audience and critical acclaim as well as Juno nominations. Later this season the Gryphon Trio will be releasing a recording of commissioned works, a recording of the Shostakovich and Schumann trios as well as a recording of Gryphon Trio encores.

Gary Kulesha is one of Canada's most active and most visible musicians. Although principally a composer, he is active as both a pianist and a conductor, and as a teacher. Mr. Kulesha's music has been commissioned, performed, and recorded by musicians and ensembles all over the world. His *Angels* for Marimba and Tape has become a standard repertoire item for percussionists, and receives over a hundred performances per year. His works for Danish recorder virtuoso Michala Petri are toured by her throughout the world each year, and have been recorded on RCA Red Seal. Over 15,000 copies have been sold in Europe alone. *Celebration Overture* is one of the most performed orchestral pieces written in Canada, and has received performances by more than 10 orchestras in the last three years. Mr. Kulesha's first opera, *Red Emma*, was included in Opera America's book of "Operas which should be performed more often", beside works by Copland, Bernstein, and Weill.

In 1988, he was appointed Composer in Residence with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, a position he held until 1992. In 1993, he was appointed Composer in Residence with the Canadian Opera Company, a position he held until the end of 1995. On Sept. 1 of 1995, he was appointed Composer-Advisor to The Toronto Symphony Orchestra, where his duties include composing, conducting, and advising on repertoire. In February of 1998, the TSO premiered his *Symphony* for two conductors and orchestra. In winter of 1999, the TSO took his work *The Gates of Time* on their American tour. In February of 2000, the TSO premiered *The True Colour of the Sky* in Toronto, prior to taking it on their European tour. As well, the TSO presented *Symphony* again, in November of 2000, as part of the Massey Hall New

Music Festival. The *Symphony* was awarded a prize at the Winnipeg Symphony New Music Festival in 2001 as Best Canadian Orchestra Composition of the 1990s. The *Symphony* opened the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's 2001-2002 season, on a programme with Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

In July of 1998, Mr. Kulesha was, with Krzysztof Penderecki, one of the two Composers in Residence at the Banff Centre's summer session. He returns to the Banff Centre in 2002.

Gary Kulesha teaches theory and composition at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music where he is the director of the Contemporary Music Ensemble.

Being named as one of "Canada's most talented young string players" by the Toronto Star, violinist **Erika Raum** certainly lives up to the expectation. With her dramatic and powerful interpretations of even the most difficult concertos and repertoire, Raum takes her place amongst the most talented young musicians in this country. Playing professionally since the age of twelve, Ms. Raum quickly rose through the ranks by taking first place and the award for the best interpretation of a Mozart concerto at the Joseph Szigeti International Violin Competition in Budapest in 1992. She has returned on many occasions to perform in Hungary, Portugal and Austria, as well as France where she has performed three consecutive summers at the Festival de l'Abbaye de l'Epau (Le Mans). She has appeared as guest artist with such orchestras as the Budapest Radio Orchestra, the Szombathely Symphony Orchestra, the Austro-Hungarian Orchestra, and the Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra.

Both a recitalist and chamber musician, Raum is a frequent performer in Canada, making appearance at the Vancouver Chamber Music Festival, the National Arts Centre Debut Series (Ottawa), the Glenn Gould Studio and Ford Centre for the Performing Arts (Toronto) and abroad at Caramoor Festival and Prussia Cove. Her orchestral appearances include the symphony

orchestras of Toronto, National Arts Centre, London, Kitchener-Waterloo, Regina and Edmonton and her American Orchestral Debut next season with the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra.

A native of Saskatchewan, Erika Raum is a graduate of the University of Toronto where she studied with Professor Lorand Fenyes and was awarded the prestigious Eaton Scholarship upon her graduation.

Scott St. John has captured the attention of the musical world through his riveting and virtuoso performances on the violin, viola and electric MIDI violin. Passionate about twentieth century music, St. John's 2001-2002 season includes Bartók's *Second Violin Concerto* with the Grand Rapids Symphony, Korngold's *Violin Concerto* with the Winnipeg Symphony, Berg and Barber *Violin Concertos* as well as a commissioned double concerto paired with the Brahms *Double Concerto* in Montreal. Scott St. John's "Chamber Music Company" launched a new series of concerts including world premieres and varied collaborations in New York's Merkin Hall.

Scott St. John has been a prizewinner in numerous competitions including the 1992 Munich International Violin Competition; winner of the Young Concert Artists Award; First Prize winner of the Alexander Schneider Violin & Viola Competition in 1987. He has performed with orchestras including the Boston Pops and Philadelphia Orchestras, Flemish Radio, Cincinnati, New Hampshire, Toronto and Vancouver Symphony Orchestras, the Royal Philharmonic in London, the New Zealand Chamber Orchestra and the Hamburg Sinfonia. An Avid chamber musician, Scott St. John frequently performs with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (NY), Da Camera of Houston, and at the Seattle, Spoleto, and Vancouver music festivals. European festival engagements include France's Evian Music Festival and the Spoleto Festival in Italy.

Scott St. John is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto where he teaches violin, viola and chamber music.

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